

SPORTING LIFE

A WEEKLY JOURNAL

Devoted to
BASEBALL, BICYCLING, SHOOT-
ING, BILLIARDS, Etc.

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TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

All correspondents of the "Sporting Life" are requested to return their credentials for renewal for 1897. Prompt compliance with this request is necessary in order to facilitate the annual labor of reorganizing the correspondence corps, which is, by the way, quite a task, owing to the immense number of contributors the "Sporting Life" has upon its staff. Failure to return the old credentials will be considered a declination of further service as correspondent.

LATE NEWS BY WIRE.

SULLIVAN SECURES SUCCESS.

The Famous Hustler Organizes a New Jersey State League.

Special to "Sporting Life."
Trenton, N. J., Jan. 14.—Hustling Ted Sullivan won't go to Texas, but will stay right here. Several weeks ago he conceived the idea that a Jersey League would be about the right thing. With him to think is to act. At his own expense he made the circuit of the State, looking up available towns, hunting up the right people and inciting enthusiasm all along the line. In this work he received the encouragement of Secretary Nick Young, of the National Board.

Ted Sullivan hustled to such good effect that the New Jersey League was organized in this city on Tuesday evening. Representatives were present from Elizabeth, New Brunswick, Plainfield, Asbury Park, Millville and Trenton. Organization was effected by the election of Frank Hough, of Philadelphia, as president, secretary and treasurer. Ted Sullivan, of Trenton, C. Toboldt, of Elizabeth, and Mr. Daughy, of Millville, were appointed a Committee on Schedule and Circuit.

Application was at once made for National Agreement protection for the territory claimed by the League, and will be granted as Ted Sullivan had the National Board's assurance to that effect before he started in to organize the League. It was decided to open the season on May 15 and close Sept. 15. Applications were received from Atlantic City, Bridgeton Salem and Burlington. The League will be made up of six clubs from the cities represented at the meeting. Ted Sullivan has the Trenton franchise, and will put a strong team here. The Spalding ball was adopted.

THE NEW ENGLAND LEAGUE.

The Maine Clubs Left Out of the Circuit.

Special to "Sporting Life."
Boston, Mass., Jan. 14.—The directors of the New England League met at the Parker House at noon yesterday and discussed at length the plans for the make-up of next season's circuit. The attitude of the Maine directors in the League and the movement to form a purely Maine league was also considered. Many base ball men for various

New England cities called at the Parker House during the meeting of the directors. Bangor was the only Maine club to send representatives, but the Massachusetts and Rhode Island clubs were generally fully represented. It is probable that the Maine clubs will withdraw, forming a State League, and other Massachusetts cities will fill the vacancies.

LEAGUE BULLETIN.

Latest Contracts and Releases Officially Pronulgated.

Special to "Sporting Life."
Washington, D. C., Jan. 14.—Headquarters National League and American Association of Professional Base Ball Clubs:
CONTRACTS, 1897.

With Louisville—A. Hernan, William C. Hill, E. Cunningham, J. W. Holmes, A. Johnson, George F. Miller.
With Philadelphia—George T. Stallings.
With Cincinnati—William Damman.
With Newark—William Garrick, J. E. Johnston, E. Scott, John Foreman.
With Paterson—D. Wind, M. Hopkins, P. Flaherty, D. A. Sprugel, D. Collins, J. Morrison, J. Little, W. Sainik, G. Dunlon, S. B. Whaley, R. Ogan.
With Reading—Barkley, Williams.
With Athletics—John C. Rafter.
RELEASED.
By Baltimore to Kansas City—H. Truby.
By Wilmington to Syracuse—W. Gallagher.
By Syracuse to Wilmington—J. Delaney, D. Minehan, O. Hill.
By Newark to Grand Rapids—John Foreman.
By Atlantic League—J. Kellackey, Al S. McFarland.
N. E. YOUNG, Secretary.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Special to "Sporting Life."
The Minneapolis Club has signed short stop Frank Shugart.
Pitcher Wadsworth has signed with the Charleston, S. C., Club.
The Lewiston Club has decided to enter the proposed Maine League.
Manager Gus Weyhing, of Ft. Worth, has signed outfielder Pete Browning.
The Columbus Club is negotiating with Louisville for catcher George Miller.
The Dallas Club has purchased the release of pitcher George Blackburn from the Austin Club.
The Baltimore Club has decided to abandon the contest for pitcher Brandt, claimed by Philadelphia.

Captain Bradley, of the Princeton team, has resigned. His successor is Walter W. Wilson, '97, of Clarion, Pa.

The League umpires, headed by Lynch and Hunt, have signed a petition to the National League for higher salaries.

President Franklin, of the Buffalo Club, has secured a five years' lease of the present playing grounds, Olympic Park.

Savannah has been definitely decided upon as the training place of the Pittsburg team, thus turning down Atlanta and Roanoke.

The Louisville Club has offered Philadelphia pitcher Frazer for catchers Clements and Lave Cross, and has also bid \$1500 for second baseman Connors, of Chicago.

According to a Boston dispatch Manager McGunnigle claims to have been badly treated by the Louisville Club, and blames secretary Barney Dreyfuss for the raw deal he received.

The Saginaw franchise in the Interstate League has been transferred to W. H. Saltonstall, W. F. Pierson and Frederick Symington, of Saginaw, Mich. George Black will be manager.

The engagement is announced of Joseph J. Kelley, the Baltimore champions' left fielder, to Miss Margaret K. Mahon, daughter of City Councilman John J. Mahon, of 906 North Calvert street, Baltimore, Md.

A call has been issued for a meeting in Evansville, Ind., January 24, to form a Central League composed of the following cities: Evansville, Terre Haute, Ind.; Knoxville, Chattanooga and Nashville, Tenn.; Cairo and Springfield, Ill.

Arthur Irwin has completed the deal for the Toronto franchise. His players are Casey, Freeman, Wright, Lutenberg, Wagner, Dineen, Staley, Dean and Sanford. Syracuse has offered Irwin catcher Zahner and infielder Harrington for outfielder Casey.

The Roanoke, Va., Club has elected these officers: President, Henry Scholz; secretary, Edward H. Donnelly; board of directors, Charles Patterson, Lewis Scholz, E. Thompson and Charles Byrne. Charles Mitchell was unanimously elected manager of the Association and authorized to proceed at once to secure the clubs to make up the Virginia League.

GALLAGHER'S PROTEST.

Claims Long Had No Right to Transfer Him to Syracuse.

Lowell, Mass., Jan. 12.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Will you please be kind enough to insert these few lines in your valuable paper for the benefit of those whom it may concern.

Mr. Editor, in reading your paper of the 9th inst. I noticed an article in which it was stated that I was traded to the Syracuse Club for several of its players by Mr. Long.

I wish to state that Mr. Long has no right to trade me to any club, for the simple reason that he has no claim on my services for next season. He had my name on his reserve list, but he had no right to have it there, as I was not under contract to him at the latter part of the season. At present I am free to sign where I please, and where it pays me best. Yours truly,
WILLIAM H. GALLAGHER.

THE LATE RUCKSTUHL

No Rocking Chair in Base Ball For Him.

From the New York "Telegraph."
The death of J. C. Ruckstuhl, who owned a majority of the shares of stock in the Louisville Club, removes from base ball circles a figure of striking personality. He was a thoroughly sincere, honest man up against two very hard propositions—the first, the National League; the second, how to make Louisville a pennant-winning team. Either of these was wearing enough without being asked to meet both. He will be missed from the League, because what he did was done with such hearty sincerity that it was seldom he was involved in the war of beautiful words the magnates fling at each other's precious heads.

LOUISVY'S LINESLLE

ARE NOW LAID FOR THE SEASON OF 1897.

Young Blood in the Saddle From Top to Bottom—Big Inducements For the Players to Exert Themselves—Why McGunnigle Was Turned Down.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 12.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Success to the "kid" management. President Pulliam and Manager Rogers are the youngest men doubtless who have ever filled those important positions in a major league. From President Stucky and Manager McGunnigle to President Pulliam and Manager Rogers is quite a step, and in many respects a radical one, but one that is regarded with general favor. Interest in the great national game is keener now for this season of the year than I have ever known in Louisville, and I am making no unwise statement when I say that the prospects of 1897 look brighter than ever before.

SETTLING DOWN.
Everyone breathes easier now that the annual meeting of the club is over. It has been postponed so often it had gotten to be a "chestnut," but it was a boon to the newspaper boys. What they would have done for news matter during the couple months preceding it with filling up in predictions is hard to say. That \$10,000 turned over to President Pulliam is no stage play. It is honest, hard money, and Harry can get it in gold or silver dollars either. Being a rabid Bryan man, however, he will likely prefer the latter. He takes his new honors easy. The promotion apparently gives his friends greater pleasure than it does himself. In speaking of the club he says he is waiting to hear from Manager Rogers and know of the plans and intentions of the new manager. Not over 16 men will be carried, his idea being to have fewer men, pay them salaries satisfactory to both sides and get best results all around. The new president will not speak of any individual changes he has in mind, but does say he has accepted the responsibility of his position, that he is not "thin skinned" and can stand a roast better than anybody he knows.

THE RETIRING PRESIDENT.
In the retirement of President Stucky from the presidency of the club the newspaper boys lose a good friend. I doubt if another president in the League was as generally liked by pencil pushers. He always had some good news item and never kept anything from the boys. He oftentimes told them confidentially things they could not use, but his confidence was never betrayed. It is gratifying to know that he will still conjointly with Mr. Pulliam represent the club at the League meetings, and will continue to retain a quasi-executive connection with the club. President Pulliam never gives anything away. He may be in possession of deep secrets, but he knows how to keep them to himself. Possibly his demeanor may change with his elevation, but as a secretary he knew how to keep his own counsel. He to-day opens a downtown office in the new Equitable Building for the dissemination of news and the transaction of base ball business and the new president will be found the same genial Harry so well known everywhere.

THE KICK AGAINST M'GUNNIGLE.
The reason Mr. McGunnigle was not re-engaged, according to one of the directors, was principally on account of his habits. It is said some of the officials of late had written letters to trustworthy sources, inquiring about actions of the club's manager during the season just passed, all of which read but one way. The ex-Colonel, it is said, also plugged some of the directors which caused him to lose favor. It is admitted that Mr. McGunnigle is an excellent judge of a ball player and a good manager, and the fact that he was turned down by Louisville ought not to be weighed to his detriment, if he will forsake the flowing bowl. His big mistake here was to try to retain the good will of officials, directors, players and press, winding up making a bad job of the whole thing. It is his own fault he did not get a longer trial, when he might have made the Colonels a winner and redeemed last year.

A NEW DEPARTURE.
At the annual meeting the directors offered five prizes of \$100 each for the next season. One hundred dollars to the Colonel having the best batting average at the end of the season, \$100 to the player having the most stolen bases to his credit, \$100 to the player scoring the most runs, \$100 to the player having the most sacrifice hits, and \$100 to the pitcher having the largest number of games won to his credit, all of which will be a great incentive to make the Colonels play their best. Already guesses are being made as to who will be the lucky players. President Pulliam says Chick Fraser will be in line at the proper time and work harder than any of the pitchers for the twirlers' prize. That don't look as if the new regime intended to dispense with the services of our discontented pitcher.

DON'T EXPECT TOO MUCH.
With the present change in management the club is merely repeating an annual performance, and to which account the fact that the team has always been a tail-ender must be charged, but let us hope that the last change, at least for several seasons, has taken place, and bend every energy to help the boys up the pennant ladder. The club is now in line with a majority of the League teams in having a playing manager, and one that is entitled to their fullest respect. Of President Pulliam sufficient is already known. A pennant winner is not expected the first year, nor will the fact be forgotten that there are eleven other good and strong teams to contend against. If last year's record is improved upon and even eleventh place is reached there will be plenty to be thankful for.

NEWS AND COMMENT.
At the meeting a resolution was adopted appropriating \$1000 to be divided among the members of the team if the Colonels finish as good as ninth next season, \$2000 if they finish as good as eighth, \$3000 if they finish as good as seventh, \$4000 if they finish as good as sixth, and so on up the scale, the players being offered \$9000 besides their salaries, to be divided among them, if they win the pennant. That's a safe offer. Good as ninth to get a division. Everybody will be tickled to death if they get in eleventh.
The directory has been increased from five to seven members, Harry Pulliam and County Judge Charles G. Richie being the new directors, the others being Zach Phelps, T. H. Stucky,

Casper Hammer, Barney Dreyfuss and Charles P. Dehler.

The treasurer's report showed the club lost money last year, notwithstanding previous statements to the contrary. The total attendance at the park last season was 119,000, but apparently the street car company were the only people to profit by this, and yet do not contribute one cent to the club's welfare.

Vice President Dehler banquetted the stockholders at Seelbach's Wednesday night, after the meeting. The popular vice president knows how to get next to his friends.

To Rogers' credit it can be said that he was not an applicant for the place. He was offered the management about a month ago, and he declined it, saying that he would not consider it as long as the Colonels had a manager. "I'm no knocker," said he. "If there is any chance for McGunnigle, I will not have it."

Heyderville seems a good school for prospective managers. Both Joyce and Rogers started in the season of '96, the former as captain, the latter in the ranks of Washington. Both began '97 as full-fledged managers, and it is just as well to remark right here that Scrapy Bill wants to keep moving all the time or his protegee may pass him on the road.

Advice is cheap. While on the subject of a first baseman, why not secure Goeckle, with Wilkesbarre last year? There is the very man Louisville wants.

Did you notice how your Louisville correspondent got in a scoop on the engagement of Rogers?
JOHN J. SAUNDERS.

STILL HARPING ON DAVY.

California Sleuths Believe Yet That Force is the Man They Want.

"Sporting Life" is in receipt of a letter from the detective office of the San Francisco Police Department, requesting a photograph of the veteran, David Force. In connection with this the following from the Washington "Post" is interesting:

"A local detective called on President Nick Young yesterday and asked for a description of Dave Force, the fugitive ex-ball tosser, who is accused of inserting lead into the shaps of a San Francisco man. The only mental note that Uncle Nick ever took of Davy was in Nick's language: 'Force was about 5 feet 6, a little bow-legged, stock of build, never drunk—at least he didn't when I knew him—was a fair hitter, and death to a ground ball.' This description of Davy is scarcely as graphic as the Bertillon picture of criminal, but it was the best Nick could do. Imagine a sleuth piping a crime with nothing but the ground ball theory to follow. The detective told Mr. Young that the 'Frisco police had notified the police departments all over the country to get out on the coach line and watch for Davy.'

Evidently the San Francisco police still believe that the ex-player Force is the man they want for murder, despite the original Davy's statement that he has not committed any crime and has not been in California.

STALLINGS IN AUGUSTA

Preparing Things For the Phillies' Spring Trip Thither.

Augusta, Ga., Jan. 12.—Editor "Sporting Life":—Manager George Stallings, of the "Phillies," arrived in the city rather unexpectedly Saturday afternoon from Philadelphia. He was expected here Sunday, but gave his family and friends a pleasant surprise by dropping in a day ahead. He was greeted by hosts of friends wherever his familiar face was seen around town. All Augusta is proud of the record George Stallings has made in base ball circles, and his professional career is being watched with great interest here.

SPRING PRACTICE.

Since his arrival he has arranged all the details for the Southern trip of the "Phillies," who will be warmly welcomed to this city, where they have as many "rooters" in proportion to population as they have in Philadelphia. Manager Stallings informs your correspondent that it is not likely the "Phillies" will meet any National League team on the diamond before the opening of the regular League season, but will probably play exhibition games with the local Southeastern League team, and perhaps other teams of the same League, working back through the Virginia State League. He calculates on bringing about 21 men South about March 8, but of course is unable to say as yet who will compose the regular team.

CIRCUIT COMPLETE.

Mr. James Smith, well known in ball circles, has purchased the franchise, etc., from Vice President Flournoy, of the Southern League, at Columbus, Ga., and has decided to place a good fast team in the Southeastern. This completes the circuit of the best and most compact league ever organized in the South.

Now that the League is a certainty the local management will proceed at once to organize for the coming season. The grounds are being put in good condition, the grand stand is being remodeled and enlarged, and the prospects are bright for a good club and a good season.

BALTIMORE'S INDOOR LEAGUE.

Several of the Champions Will Play and Get in Trim For Next Season.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 11.—A meeting was held Friday afternoon at base ball headquarters which was attended by the professional ball players belonging to the Baltimore Club who are spending the winter here, and by representatives of the leading amateur organizations to arrange for indoor base ball games.

Of the professionals there were present Robinson, Clarke, Kelley, McGraw, Keeler and Keister. Pond and Jennings and perhaps Doyle will also join in the movement. Doyle has partly decided to go to San Francisco, but his clubmates are trying to induce him to change his mind. The colleges and athletic organizations are very much taken with the scheme, and about the only drawback just now is a suitable hall. When this is obtained the professionals will pair off, two being assigned to each amateur organization.

It is to be a league of six clubs. There will be a nominal charge of admission, the net profits to be divided equally between the professionals and the clubs. So as not to impair their amateur standing the money allotted to the clubs will go into their treasury instead of being divided among the players.

The professionals will pool their money and divide at the end of the season. The idea is not so much to make money as to give all hands practice and get in trim for the coming season.

Committees were appointed this afternoon and another meeting will be held next week.